

Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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GOOD SERVANT, BAD MASTER

Someone has said: "Fire is a great servant but a terrible master."

There was nothing wrong with the statement. Without fire humanity would never have survived nor would civilization have been possible. According to Grecian mythology we are indebted to one Prometheus for our possession of fire, which he stole from heaven, and according to this same mythology had a great deal of trouble with his liver for some time after.

If the legend is true, which is at least debatable, Prometheus deserves a great deal of credit for his sacrifice, and also for his thieving propensities.

At the same time his theft has caused so much loss and destruction that it in a measure counterbalances the good it caused.

Tuesday night a conflagration started in Paris, Texas, that swept away from eight to ten million dollars worth of property and left 10,000 homeless. It was fire as the master and surely a cruel and costly one.

Yesterday the fire demon again got in its work in Kansas sweeping for miles over the prairies and destroying millions of dollars worth of property. It swept through the Cushing Oil fields, doing more than a million dollars of damage there and besides, though the reports were meager, did other damage vast in amount, but what that amount is as yet unknown.

It would seem that this should be enough to satisfy the fire demon but it only seemed to whet his appetite and the result of another blaze starting in a negro cabin in East Nashville practically destroyed that city. It is estimated that this blaze left 15,000 persons homeless and helpless. The total damage from the three fires was probably in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000.

Truly so vast a sum that the mind cannot grasp just what it means in human endeavor. Just to get an idea of what it is let us put it this way: If a person had began working on a job at the time Christ was born, and worked eight hours a day at \$4.00 an hour, he would just about have that sum earned. Yet this good servant and heartless master destroyed all this accumulation of human endeavor in a few hours.

If the Seattle Star keeps its word and publishes today the stories of the operation of that alleged blackmailing gang of which the Clayburg woman under arrest in Los Angeles, is said to be one, there will be a stir in ultra fashionable circles in that side hill city such as is seldom seen among the American nobility. The Star besides printing the stories promises to also present the pictures of those caught in compromising positions and to give the amounts paid by the big ones for having their pictures returned to them by the gang. It is claimed Seattle victims were behind the fight to prevent Mrs. Clayburg's extradition, they hoping thereby to avoid the publicity almost certain to follow her trial. Of course it is not a nice story, but such is the make up of the human mind that the Star's sales can safely be depended on to excel anything it has ever recorded.

Despite the president's denial that any peace suggestions had been suggested to him by Germany, the fact that Ambassador Gerard has cancelled his vacation plans, and will remain in Berlin, because "he feels important matters might come up while he was away," gives color at least to the suggestion that peace arrangements may be discussed in the near future.

When people will pay \$135,000 to see two men box for ten rounds—or less, it is evident money is plentiful and brains at a discount. Tex Rickard who staged the big contest will get more out of it than Moran, baring the beating.

The list of candidates for office continues to grow, but there are a few who have not yet filed. It is claimed the registration list is almost keeping pace with that of the candidates.

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Congressman Linthicum wants creameries inspected and makes some statements as to why it is necessary, and among others gives these: It is reported by the Bureau of Animal Industry that ninety-four and five-tenths per centum of the creameries of the country are insanitary to a greater or less degree; that sixty-one and five-tenths per centum of the cream used is unclean or decomposed, or both; that seventy-two and six-tenths per centum of the cream is not pasteurized, but is made into butter to be consumed in a raw state, in which state disease germs retain their virulence for a long period of time; that a large percentage of all dairy cattle are affected with tuberculosis; and that infected dairy products are among the active agents in the spread of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and other infectious diseases." Not a nice array of facts, if they are facts, to bear in mind as you spread the golden butter on your toast, or see it dissolve in liquid deliciousness on your hot cakes. Linthicum is an enemy to appetite, a breakfast table iconoclast, and in addition it is hoped he is using the truth parsimoniously and with prodigal frugality. Go to! Linthicum and we don't care where.

Frank Elfering, a milk man of Los Angeles, quarreled with Mrs. Macy, a grocer woman, over the price of milk. Elfering choked Mrs. Macy. Mrs. Lawson entered the grocery, saw the scrap, was handed a pistol by Mrs. Macy's daughter. Shot Elfering dead. Coroner's jury said: "Served him right." The price of milk in Los Angeles remains unchanged.

Justice Hughes shows good sense in not making a campaign for the presidential nomination. The job on the supreme bench is a far preferable one, and besides a fellow is his own boss and only has to work when he feels like it and not very hard then. The United States supreme court can incubate longer on fewer eggs and get a smaller per centage of results than any other body, civil or uncivil, on the globe. Witness the Oregon & California land grant where it "set" for a year and hatched out an opinion that was contradictory and did not decide anything.

Senatorial courtesy is somewhat like hash—the evidence of things hoped for, but never seen. Yesterday in discussing the government armor plate plant bill, Senator Reed openly accused Senator Oliver of owning 1000 shares of United Steel stock, and intimated this was the moving cause of his opposition to the bill. Senator Oliver wanted to explain his connection with the corporation but Senator Reed curtly told him to wait until he got through. Polite lot of old political relics, ain't they?

Familiarity breeds contempt. When the Mexican peons saw the first airship sail over Casas Grandas they dropped on their knees and gave their souls to prayer. When informed what the immense bird was and learning it was not supernatural they approached and stared at it and probably cursed the ignorant gringos for searing them so badly.

Portland seems to be somewhat peeved because Secretary Daniels said the depth of water in the Columbia was only 26 feet, while as a matter of fact it is at least thirty feet. Four feet does not seem much to quarrel about, but come to think of it they mean a great deal to a quadruped.

Sherman, so it is said, once remarked that "war is hell." If he could see the real modern warfare where liquid fire is used as a weapon, he would be still more emphatic in his statement.

A total of 54 race horses have reached San Diego, being brought from Mexico. Anything or anyone with horse sense would get out of that country now—and stay out.

But few care whether or not the railroads cut any melons; but many are interested in having them cut considerable more ice in the way of supplying freight cars.

A Standard Oil tanker grounded on the bar at San Francisco and was badly damaged. The price of gasoline is due to jump again.



SPRING SONG

Every sage this scheme indorses: Make your premises look neat; cart away the old dead horses, burn the rubbish and repeat. For the spring should find our city rid of every ugly thing; it will be a beastly pity, if we disappoint the spring. In the spring the world is laundered by the soft, refreshing showers, and the cleansing winds are squandered by Dame Nature at all hours; but the rainfall and the breezes can't remove the trash and junk, which, like decomposing cheeses, fill the air with perfume punk. Let us hustle, and abolish everything that draws the flies; let us clean and paint and polish till our town delights the eyes. Oh, I ought to sing the lily, when old winter ups and goes, and I ought to write some silly balderdash about the rose, but I make my harpstrings rattle, urging folks to clean their lawns; cart away dead cats and cattle, old tin cans and demijohns.

Special Sales Day at Dallas Saturday

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Dallas, Or., March 23.—The regular monthly sales day, a movement inaugurated by the Dallas Commercial club several months ago, and which was discontinued for several weeks during the winter on account of bad weather will again be taken up by the club and Saturday, March 23, has been set for the holding of the next sale. In connection with the holding of the public sale an interesting meeting will be held relative to the establishment of a cannery in this city. The Commercial Club having secured a Mr. Walker superintendent of a cooperative cannery at Chehalis, Washington, to be in the city on that date and lay the plans of such a cannery before the people of this county. Mr. Walker will speak in the court house from one until two o'clock. The time for holding the sale has been set earlier on this date so as to allow all farmers an opportunity of hearing Mr. Walker.

Sells Interest in Laundry.
K. N. Wood has disposed of his interest in the Dallas Steam Laundry to his partner, Fred Saver, and will engage in other business, the nature of which is undecided. Since purchasing the business about two years ago the above firm made many improvements in the building and have added considerable new machinery making the laundry one of the best in the state outside of Portland.

Tooze Lectures On Trip.
Lamar Tooze, a University of Oregon student and a brother of Walter L. Tooze, Jr., of this city, lectured in the Armory, Saturday evening, on his trip to Europe with the Henry Ford peace party. Mr. Tooze believes that the Ford party accomplished much good on its trip, one of the results of which was the establishment of a permanent peace conference which at the present time is sitting at Stockholm trying to arrange matters to bring about peace with the warring countries of Europe. Mr. Tooze delighted the audience with a number of personal experiences in Europe. Preceding his lecture Miss Elva Lucas sang several pleasing solos. John C. Uglow gave a solo and Sheriff John W. Orr sang two solos. The armory was crowded to its utmost capacity.

Water To Be Shut Off.
For the first time in about 14 years the city water will be shut off in Dallas this afternoon so as to allow the repairing of the water fountains. The work will begin about two o'clock and Manager Soehren expects to have the repair work finished by four o'clock. Notices have been posted giving residents notice of the shutting off of the water.

Mrs. J. L. Swenson and Mrs. Dessau Mills returned Sunday evening from a short visit in Salem.

Attorney John R. Sibley was a Portland business visitor Monday.

Miss Frances Dempsey and Miss Katherine Sibley returned Sunday evening from a several days' visit with Portland relatives.

Miss Helen Casey was an over-Sunday visitor with friends in Eugene.

Harold Miller, a Willamette University student, spent Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Miller in this city.

Mrs. George T. Gerlinger returned the first of the week from Eugene where she had been on business for several days.

Mrs. T. H. Starbuck, of Portland, is a guest at the home of her son, Dr. A. B. Starbuck, on Court street.

Miss Barbara Nooley, of Corvallis and Miss Luella Craven, of Independence, were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Loughary on Oak street.

Miss Gladys Cartwright was an over-Sunday guest of friends in Eugene.

E. E. Paddock, a prominent Independence citizen, was a county seat business visitor Monday afternoon.

Mrs. H. J. Price is visiting at the home of her mother in Woodburn this week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. V. B. Dwyer were guests of relatives in McMinnville the first of the week.

Miss Mamie Victor and Miss Edna Townsend of Salem were over-Sunday guests at the home of Miss Marie Griffin.

Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Horn are rejoicing over the arrival of a son born Monday morning.

Mrs. Nathan Stow of Astoria was a Dallas visitor with relatives the first of the week.

OIL TANKER GROUND
San Francisco, Mar. 22.—Lifted by high tide off the bar when it grounded after losing its rudder, the Standard Oil tanker Bradford drifted into the middle channel yesterday and then to a point three miles off Point Bonita life saving station. The vessel is reported leaking badly. Three Red Stack tanks are standing by.

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Her Affections Damaged \$6,833 In Six Short Days

Portland, Ore., Mar. 23.—Joe Howard, musical comedy star, must pay \$6,833 for a whirlwind flirtation with Mrs. Elsie Witherspoon, pretty Portland widow, Circuit Judge Morrow signed an order to this effect today.

Judgment was taken against Howard because he failed to appear in court to answer the suit. Mrs. Witherspoon sued for \$50,000. When Howard failed to appear, the court's only way was to fix the amount of damages.

Mrs. Witherspoon told of her brief romance at a night session of court.

Howard had known her parents, she said. She met him on Monday night, he talked over old times, Tuesday he telephoned and "made a date" with her. Wednesday, she says, he phoned to her. Thursday they planned their wedding. Friday they decided to be married Sunday. Saturday, testified Mrs. Witherspoon, Howard took her and her parents to dinner at a downtown grill and they arranged the wedding for the next day.

Sunday, she tearfully told the court, the wedding dinner was ready, her wedding gown was on, and Howard hadn't arrived. The dinner grew cold. Her father telephoned to his hotel.

"Mr. Howard left last night for 'Las Encinas,'" said the clerk.

And Mrs. Witherspoon hasn't seen him since.

S. P. PLAYED CROOKED

Los Angeles, Cal., Mar. 23.—For the purpose of indicating that Southern Pacific officials systematically concealed the fact that Kern county land was oil bearing, letters alleged to have been written by E. T. Doble, Julius Kruttschnitt and W. S. Herrin, high railroad officials, were introduced in evidence before Federal Judge Blodgett today in the government oil "framed case."

The letters were admitted as evidence after a long fight between counsel.

Germany's Prisoners Are All Well Cared For

Los Angeles, Cal., March 23.—Germany's prisoners of war are being treated extremely well, according to J. E. Spranger, state secretary of the Y. M. C. A. who has returned today from a six months' visit to the European prison camps.

There are 1,500,000 prisoners of war in Germany, according to Spranger including 1,200,000 Russians, 250,000 French and 25,000 English besides a

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